

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2368

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINT, PO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI CONCLUDES THREE-
DAY VISIT

REF: ROME 11774 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ITALIAN FONMIN FORLANI HAS CONCLUDED A THREE-
DAY VISIT TO PORTUGAL, THE FIRST GOI MINISTERIAL VISIT SINCE
APRIL 1974. PUBLIC STATEMENTS HERE FOCUSED ON THE GOP'S
EC MEMBERSHIP BID WHICH FORLANI SAID HAS THE GOI'S FULL
SUPPORT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ITALIAN SUPPORT IS NOT CONTINGENT
ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY REFORM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THE GOP
URGED THE RAPID DISBURSEMENT OF \$10 MILLION IN ITALIAN BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE BUT FORLANI WAS NONCOMMITTAL. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE AGENDA: DURING HIS JULY 21-23 VISIT, FORLANI MET
WITH PRESIDENT EANES, PRIME MINISTER SOARES, FOREIGN MINISTER
MEDEIROS FERREIRA, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT FERNANDES, AND CDS
LEADER AMARAL. THE ROLE OF PORTUGAL, ITALY, SPAIN, AND GREECE
AS A POSSIBLE BRIDGE BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE THIRD WORLD WAS
DISCUSSED ALONG WITH THE NEED TO EXPAND GOP-GOI BILATERAL

RELATIONS ON ALL FRONTS.

3. PORTUGAL AND THE EC: FORLANI STATED UPON ARRIVAL AND EMPHASIZED THROUGHOUT HIS VISIT THAT ITALY FULLY SUPPORTS PORTUGUESE ENTRY AND THAT GOI SUPPORT IS NOT CONTINGENT ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY REFORM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. ON THE CONTRARY, FORLANI NOTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE, GREEK, AND SPANISH APPLICATIONS WILL REINFORCE GOI EFFORTS TOWARD AGRICULTURAL REFORM. FORLANI EMPHASIZED THAT A UNIFIED EUROPE WAS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE FULL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STATES. PORTUGUESE ENTRY WOULD BE AN "IMPORTANT STEP" TOWARD "FULL" EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND WOULD ENHANCE THE REGION'S ABILITY TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ISSUES.

4. A BRIDGE TO THE THIRD WORLD: FORLANI NOTED THAT PORTUGAL, ITALY, SPAIN, AND GREECE WERE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO BRIDGE THE GULF BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE THIRD WORLD. HE SAID THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE WEST AND JAPAN IN THIS REGARD COULD SUCCEED ONLY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STATES.

5. BILATERAL RELATIONS: AS THE FIRST GOI MINISTERIAL VISIT SINCE 1974, FORLANI'S DISCUSSIONS HIGHLIGHTED PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. FORLANI ANNOUNCED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH A "MIXED COMMISSION" TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLORE NEW AVENUES OF COOPERATION ON ALL FRONTS AND EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH WERE DETERMINED TO EXPAND CULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND POLITICAL CONTACTS. FORLANI PREDICTED FURTHER GOI/GOP MEETINGS AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

6. THE ITALIAN CHARGE' TOLD DCM THAT THE PORTUGUESE URGED FORLANI TO ANNOUNCE THE GOI CONTRIBUTION FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND DISBURSEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FORLANI LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY BUT WAS NON-COMMITTAL. THE CHARGE' SAID THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENT OF THE VISIT WAS TO OPEN A HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE.
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